



**Special Meeting of the
Ramona Community Planning Group
Community Crisis Management Meeting
15873 Hwy 67 – Ramona, CA 92065
Minutes for February 19, 2009**

7:00 PM @ Ramona Community Center, 434 Aqua Lane

A special meeting of the Ramona Community Planning Group (RCPG) was held February 19, 2009, at 7 p.m., at the Ramona Community Center, 434 Aqua Lane, Ramona, California.

In Attendance: Chris Anderson Katherine L. Finley Kathy S. Finley
Bob Hailey Eb Hogervorst Kristi Mansolf
Jim Piva Dennis Sprong Paul Stykel
Angus Tobiason Richard Tomlinson

Excused Absence: Chad Anderson, Torry Brean, Matt Deskovick, Dennis Grimes

Chris Anderson, Chair of the RCPG, acted as Chair of the meeting. Kristi Mansolf, Secretary of the RCPG, acted as Secretary of the meeting.

1. CALL TO ORDER (Chris Anderson, Chair) – 7:05 p.m.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. Seating of Newly Appointed Member, Torry Brean, in Seat 15. Oath of Office (Chair)

The Chair announced Torry Brean was unable to be at the meeting. The Chair seated Torry Brean in Seat 15, filling the RCPG vacancy left by Beverly Maes.

4. DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM – The Secretary determined there was a quorum.
5. LIST OF ABSENTEES FOR THIS MEETING. Determination of Excused and Unexcused Absences: Chad Anderson Torry Brean, Matt Deskovick and Dennis Grimes had an excused absence.
6. The Secretary Determined a Quorum was Present
7. APPROVAL OF ORDER OF THE AGENDA (Action)

The order of the agenda was approved with no objections, with Chad Anderson, Torry Brean, Matt Deskovick and Dennis Grimes absent.

8. ROBERTS RULES OF ORDER and The Brown Act – General Information on What These Documents Are and How They Apply to the RCPG (Chair)

The Chair said Roberts Rules of Order govern how the RCPG meetings are conducted. The Brown Act defines how the public participates in the meeting.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS & Correspondence Received (Chair)

The Chair said that there was to be a presentation by Liberty Health on the placement of Matthew Hedge in Ramona. Liberty Health was invited to be in attendance at the meeting to present the facts on his placement and to talk to us about how to maintain our safety should Matthew Hedge be placed in Ramona.

10. NON-AGENDA ITEMS Presentations on Land Issues not on Current Agenda (No Presentations on Ongoing Projects – These Must be Agendized)

Speaker: Guy Willeford, Ramona Resident

Mr. Willeford said a prayer.

As the person presenting for Item 11 was not at the Community Center yet, the Chair asked that Item 12 be brought forward for brief discussion.

MOTION: TO GO OUT OF ORDER OF THE AGENDA.

Upon motion made by Bob Hailey and seconded by Dennis Sprong, the Motion **passed 11-0-0-0-4**, with Chad Anderson, Torry Brean, Matt Deskovick, and Dennis Grimes absent.

12. Assembly Bill 885, State Water Resources Control Board Hearing About the Proposed Regulations and Waiver for Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (Septic Systems) and the Associated Draft EIR. Public Comment Ends 2-23-09 (Action)

The Chair said that Assembly Bill 885 will impact septic system activity throughout the State. It will go into a point of sale issue. Documents will be passed to future buyers. Now if a septic tank is built, water absorbed on the sidewalls is counted. In the future, water absorbed on the sidewalls won't be counted and the property won't perc. The point of sale issue won't work. It is tough enough to sell houses now. Assembly Bill 885 is not fair for people with lower incomes. People will have to wait to sell their homes to comply. She has been watching this bill since 2004. It is being applied statewide. It needs to be jurisdictional.

Mr. Sprong said that there are different types of septic systems. One type of system is the tunnel system, which the County hasn't recognized yet.

The Chair said that there were seminars on this topic as far south as Riverside. None were held in San Diego.

Mr. Tobiason said the County should have brought this before us.

Ms. Katherine L. Finley said the Board of Supervisors should have brought AB 885 to the communities that are affected. Future issues, other assembly bills that affect rural lands, should be brought to the communities.

MOTION: WE EXPRESS OUR OPPOSITION TO AB 885 AS WRITTEN AND TO SEND COMMENTS.

Upon motion made by Bob Hailey and seconded by Katherine L. Finley, the Motion **passed 11-0-0-0-4** with Chad Anderson, Torry Brean, Matt Deskovick, and Dennis Grimes absent.

MOTION: TO ASK THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO BRING ASSEMBLY BILL 885 AND OTHER ASSEMBLY BILLS THAT AFFECT RURAL LANDS TO THE COMMUNITIES OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY THAT ARE AFFECTED BY THEM.

Upon motion made by Katherine L. Finley and seconded by Bob Hailey, the Motion passed 11-0-0-0-4 with Chad Anderson, Torry Brean, Matt Deskovick and Dennis Grimes absent.

11. Opportunity to Give Public Input/Comments to send to SVP Release/SAFE Task Force, and Superior Court Judge Wellington, Regarding Sexually Violent Predator being Released/Placed in Ramona. Comments due 2-27-09 (Action)

Jayne Shale and Ken Carabello, representatives of Liberty Healthcare Corporation, were in attendance. Mr. Carabello said that Liberty Health contracts with the State Department of Mental Health to run the Sexually Violent Predator (SVP) Release Program. In the State of California, there are 100,000 sexual offenders registered. 21,000 sexual offenders are incarcerated. 730 leave the facility each month. 75,000 have been returned to communities after serving time because of the SVP law. The process is that a petition is filed, the SVP is routed into treatment. After treatment, the law determines when the patient reaches a point, and then a conditional release is considered. Some get a conditional release if certain criteria are met.

In San Diego, there are 2,716 registered sex offenders. There are 24 in treatment, moving to a conditional release in the next 5 years. Ten SVP's have been released in San Diego County – 2 were released conditionally, 2 are on parole, 6 have no supervision. At Coalinga, there is a 6 to 8 year program to address problems with sex offenders. Does this treatment help? The treatment is not a cure all. A containment model is used. The goal is no more victims. The SVP must be responsible for all of the rules, terms and conditions placed on them. For a conditional release, there are pages of requirements that must be met. A conditional release is done through collaboration and coordination. There is a community safety team to watch over the patient that includes a treatment provider, coordination with local law enforcement, the District Attorney's office, polygraph specialists and victim advocates. There are scheduled and unannounced home visits. GPS is used to track the patient at times. There are collateral contacts that are used – people in the patient's lives. There is treatment to help them shore up their lives so they don't do it again. Reports are given to the court. Their scheduled routes are looked at – anything off is a violation. There have been 16 conditional releases since 2003. Nine are in the community. Five were revoked for violating the conditions and terms. Mr. Hedge was out and his release revoked. Jessica's Law established the distance of 2,000 feet from parks and schools. Where the sex offender is to live has not been determined yet. This is still being worked through. There are some limits. Details will be worked out in court.

Mr. Hailey asked about the process to determine location for placement of a SVP?

Mr. Carabello said most landowners are not willing to rent to an SVP. He has to find a willing landowner. They have to see if it will work. Court approval is required.

Mr. Piva said the word Mr. Carabello used was "try." We live here. Try is not a strong word to hang the safety of our children on. Is a community like Ramona a place for him to be safe? Octotillo Wells would be a better place to release Mr. Hedge.

Ms. Mansolf asked about the mental health condition of Mr. Hedge and what level of security he would have living in Ramona? Will he have a job? What will he be doing?

Mr. Carabello said that Mr. Hedge's mental health condition is his sexual problem. A schedule will be submitted for when Mr. Hedge goes out into the community. He is going to try to get a job – that is the goal – that he will be self-sufficient. He will have an agenda mapped out he needs to stick to. He will be in a treatment program that will work toward meeting his needs. The goal is that he will be involved in pro-social work to get his life in order to the way his life should be lived. All of his activities will be monitored.

Mr. Stykel asked if there is any guarantee that children will not be molested should Mr. Hedge be placed in Ramona?

Mr. Carabello said the program is designed to minimize the chance of this happening.

Ms. Kathy S. Finley asked about the support system for Mr. Hedge. Does he have family or friends?

Mr. Carabello said that the support system for SVP's is a huge factor in his life. It will help in reducing future offenses. He will be court ordered out for a year. As part of his treatment, they will try to get him into meaningful activities.

Ms. Katherine L. Finley asked how many categories of sexual offender there are. Is Mr. Hedge the worst case?

Mr. Carabello said that there additional levels of review. Mr. Hedge has a mental disorder. He has had to get beyond a reasonable doubt to get to this point.

Ms. Katherine L. Finley asked if this label could be applied to an 18-year old having a relationship with his girlfriend.

Mr. Carabello said that Mr. Hedge is a serious sex offender.

Mr. Tomlinson said that Mr. Hedge will need to go to the grocery story. He will be where he is supposed to be. He will be interacting with the community and our children on a regular basis.

Mr. Carabello said that a staff member would be taking him to the grocery story. He will need to learn to function on his own.

The Chair said that his rent will be paid for by the State.

Mr. Carabello said that the idea is that he will pay for his own stuff eventually.

The Chair said that in Boulevard, they took 1 and now they have 3. Will this happen in Ramona?

Ms. Shale said they try to place SVP's in rural areas due to Jessica's Law. They have to be compliant. The Court may not allow multiple placements.

Mr. Piva said he appreciates the civility. An SVP is a time bomb. Mr. Hedge says he is not cured. He is a time bomb. We don't think Ramona is fit for this placement.

The Acting Vice Chair said 21 people registered opposition and did not want to speak. Twenty three people wanted to speak.

Speaker: Rick Terrazas, Congressman Duncan Hunter's office

Mr. Terrazas works with Duncan Hunter. Duncan Hunter could not be at the meeting but wanted to send along his concerns. Mr. Terrazas wanted to voice his opposition. Congressman Duncan Hunter is against the placement of Matthew Hedge in Ramona.

Speaker: Ellen Malin, California Senator Dennis Hollingsworth's office

Ms. Malin said that Senator Hollingsworth has sponsored countless bills on sexual offenders. Some bills have been rejected. Senator Hollingsworth is against this placement in Ramona. They will work hard to protect Ramona.

Speaker: Verma Kiernan, Ramona Resident

Ms. Kiernan lives next door to the proposed placement. She said that Mr. Hedge's profile can be viewed on svp.org. There were 5 SVP's in San Diego County. All have been returned to custody. One passed a note to a young boy. Mr. Hedge says he can't be rehabilitated. If Mr. Hedge is released, she will become a prisoner. The house is 4,000 sq. ft. on 7 acres. The houses run along the property line and are close together.

Speaker: Bob Dobson, Ramona Resident

Mr. Dobson said that the proposed house is not the right place for this offender. He said to be prepared to hold any elected official who supports this placement to the point of recall.

Speaker: Harry Katcher, Ramona Resident

Mr. Katcher says that Mr. Hedge is the worst of the worst. Consideration is being given to him being placed in Ramona in the vicinity of 2 preschools and bus stops. He has molested a number of children. GPS will track the man, but no one will know what he is doing. Mr. Hedge is being pushed east in the County. No matter where he is put, each community has to have their share. In the El Cajon zip code, there is 1 sexual offender per 750 people. In Santee, there is 1 sexual offender per 1,100 people. In Ramona, there is 1 sexual offender per 1,500 people. In San Marcos, there is 1 sexual offender per 2,400 people. In La Jolla, there 4 sexual offenders total, or 1 sexual offender per 11,000 people.

Speaker: Kate DeWeerd, Ramona Resident

Ms. DeWeerd thanked the RCPG for hearing this issue. She is a PTA leader. PTA educates the public on providing for the well being of the public. PTA wrote a letter in 1897 that got children out of the factories and into the schools. PTA took steps to get the first hot lunches in schools. Sometimes this was the only hot meal kids had in a day. The State Department of Mental Health is considering placing Mr. Hedge by 2 preschools, 2 bus stops and a proposed church site. There are no mental health facilities in Ramona. He will be in a place where he could repeat his crimes. Now, Ramona is one of the safest places in the County to raise kids. Mr. Hedge will be closer to our schools than the nearest law enforcement facility.

Speaker: Mary Fletcher, Ramona Resident

Ms. Fletcher created a 3-D plaster model of the 4,000 sq. ft. residence where Mr. Hedge is proposed to be placed. She lives at 3337 Hwy 67, next door to 3340 Hwy 67. Ms. Fletcher gave a brief account of her personal history in the residence, to include anecdotes involving the families that have come and gone while she has lived there.

Speaker: George Boggs, Ramona Resident

Mr. Boggs previously fought the homeless center, and the State people when the homeless center was proposed where Mt. Woodson school is. Recidivism rate even after treatment is still 80 percent. We don't need Matthew Hedge up here.

Speaker: Jennifer Skinner, Ramona Resident

Ms. Skinner has a 5 year old and a 2 years old. She is a church member. Her son goes to a preschool in the area. We are the voice for the children. We have to advocate for the children. She is worried about Matthew Hedge going to the grocery store and being around our children.

Speaker: Patrick Kiernan, Ramona Resident

Mr. Kiernan is a neighbor to 3340 Hwy 67. There are huge oak trees in the back yard that can conceal things. He has the Field of Dreams Nursery. Ramona is a big family to him. He wants to see a Santa yard in his Field of Dreams. His dream will be in jeopardy if Matthew Hedge is placed here. A lot of people have been sexually molested. Kids need to not be afraid in the community.

Speaker: Kimberly Maurer, Ramona Resident

Ms. Maurer said that Matthew Hedge is a man who has proven he is unable to go through rehabilitation. He doesn't belong in society and in Ramona. We have to protect our children. She asked what the next step in the process was?

The Chair said that this item will be heard by a Judge in Superior Court on March 13.

Speaker: Louise Uran, Ramona Resident

Ms. Uran lives across the street. She has a 14 years old grandson who gets off the bus at Lansdown. He walks down a dirt road. She has heard SVP's like open fields. There are many open fields in this area.

Speaker: Heather Lyson, Ramona Resident

Ms. Lyson said that the kids walk home from the bus stops. They will not be safe.

Speaker: Debra Lambert, Ramona Resident

Ms. Lambert moved to the country for freedom. She does community service at the intersection. She is involved in 4-H. She is speaking on behalf of the people/children who participate in those activities. She moved from Scripps Ranch. Her husband wouldn't let their kids have their freedom because there was a sexual predator down the street. Her kids now walk to the bus stop

by themselves. Having Matthew Hedge in the area will imprison children. The effects of a sexual predator cannot be reversed.

Speaker: Michelle Carr, Ramona Resident

Ms. Carr considers herself a victim. Her daughter goes to the elementary school across the field. The State is going to pay for Matthew Hedge to live in a luxurious home. She is a small business owner and pays her taxes. Sexual predators are never rehabilitated. She asked the community to come together on this issue.

Speaker: Carole Close, Ramona Resident

Ms. Close said that if Matthew Hedge moves into the neighborhood, she will move. She will have to disclose that a sexual predator lives in the area. Who will buy her house? She has a 10 year old son. She won't let him go out to play if Matthew Hedge moves in. No one will let their kids come over to play with her son. Who knows what crimes he did that he wasn't brought to justice for. Her life will be ruined.

Speaker: Lynn Gardea, Ramona Resident

Ms. Gardea lives at SDCE. When her kids go to visit in the neighborhood where the placement is proposed, she will worry. She pays taxes and doesn't want to pay for this.

Speaker: Sandi Simon, Ramona Resident

Ms. Simon has 3 girls, ages 5, 3 and 2. Her neighbors don't lock their doors. She doesn't lock her doors. Her sister was a victim of child molestation. She'll never have children. Matthew Hedge failed at Donovan, why not put him back there?

Speaker: Pam Orlina, Ramona Resident

Ms. Orlina said there is a certain innocence in Ramona. She asked how many in Ramona don't lock their doors? Mr. Hedge will have 8 bedrooms, a pool and a deck. Why not put foster kids at the proposed residence? Ramona represents old fashioned values.

Speaker: Michael Grogan, Ramona Resident

Mr. Grogan is opposed to Mr. Hedge being placed in Ramona.

Speaker: Angi Schirer, Ramona Resident

Ms. Schirer asked why Mr. Hedge is being considered for placement in Ramona? She is opposed to him being placed here.

Speaker: Carol Tennenbaum, Principal of Hanson Elementary

Ms. Tennenbaum said that children play in the open space. There is only a field between Mr. Hedge's proposed placement residence and the school. Ms. Tennenbaum offered information on area bus stops. Mr. Hedge, a repeat, violent, sexual predator should not be placed in close proximity to schools, bus stops or any area when he can have access to our children.

Speaker: Robin Le Brun, Ramona Resident

Ms. Le Brun works at a nearby preschool and is a mother. A child molester has a lifelong disorder. Monitoring is required. Matthew Hedge is not ready to be released. He is attracted to both boys and girls, so he is a threat to all. People who commit crimes are desperate and will try to avoid having witnesses. People will die. No one understands Matthew Hedges' condition. There is no guarantee for anyone's safety. Cancer patients have the cancer removed, and are not recommended to return to the environment that caused their cancer. Returning a child molester to an area with children is a thoughtless, careless act.

Speaker: Carol Martin, Ramona Resident

Ms. Martin is against the proposed placement of Mr. Hedge in Ramona. She recently worked with the RCPG to add to her home.

Speaker: Charles Koppa, Ramona Businessman

Mr. Koppa said that it is his rental which is being proposed to house Matthew Hedge. Mr. Koppa was unaware of the gravity of the situation when approached to enter into a contract. He was not told all of the information. Mr. Koppa gave a history of how this situation came about. He waived an envelope which he said contained the deposit for the rental. Mr. Koppa feels the proposed placement of Matthew Hedge in his rental home has damaged his reputation.

MOTION: THE RCPG IS AGAINST MATTHEW H. HEDGE BEING LOCATED IN RAMONA, CALIFORNIA, BASED ON THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

- 1) IN VIOLATION OF JESSICA'S LAW, MR. HEDGE WILL BE WITHIN 2000 FEET OF THE SITE OF THE SPIRIT OF JOY LUTHERAN CHURCH, WHICH HOLDS EASTER EGG HUNTS, RUMMAGE SALES, AND COMMUNITY GATHERINGS CURRENTLY ON THE VACANT LOT. FUTURE USE IS A CHURCH SITE WITH RECREATION FIELDS.**
- 2) SCHOOL BUS STOPS – CHILDREN ARE DROPPED OFF AT LANSDOWN LANE/DYE ROAD AND AT ADRIENNE WAY.**
- 3) THE PROPOSED HOUSING IS WITHIN 2000 FEET OF THE METHODIST CHURCH PLAYGROUND AND VIEWSHED.**
- 4) THE COST TO THE TAXPAYERS FOR LARGE HOME, POOL, ETC.**
- 5) PROPERTY OWNER WAS INITIALLY UNAWARE OF THE INTENDED OCCUPANT AND DOES NOT WANT TO RENT TO THIS INDIVIDUAL.**
- 6) RAMONANS AGES 5-19 MAINTAIN THE "WELCOME TO RAMONA" SIGN ON THE CORNER OF HWY 67 AND HIGHLAND VALLEY ROAD.**
- 7) REPRESENTS A THREAT TO BOTH MALE AND FEMALE VICTIMS WHICH EQUATES TO 100 PERCENT OF OUR CHILDREN AND THE RISK IS TOO GREAT.**

Upon motion made by Dennis Sprong and seconded by Bob Hailey, the Motion **passed 11-0-0-0-4**, with Chad Anderson, Torry Brean, Matt Deskovick and Dennis Grimes absent.

12. Assembly Bill 885, State Water Resources Control Board Hearing About the Proposed Regulations and Waiver for Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (Septic Systems) and the Associated Draft EIR. Public Comment Ends 2-23-09 (Action)

The Chair brought forward prepared comments on Assembly Bill 885 specific to the rural areas not brought forward previously.

MOTION: TO SEND COMMENTS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIR.

Upon motion made by Katherine L. Finley and seconded by Kathy S. Finley, the Motion **passed 10-1-0-0-4**, with Richard Tomlinson voting no, and Chad Anderson, Torry Brean, Matt Deskovick and Dennis Grimes absent.

13. Administrative Matters:

A. Election of RCPG Officers for 2009: Vice-Chair (Action)

Chris Anderson nominated Dennis Sprong. Kristi Mansolf nominated Dennis Grimes.

Voting Record: Chris Anderson – Dennis Sprong; Katherine L. Finley – Dennis Sprong; Kathy S. Finley – Dennis Sprong; Bob Hailey – Dennis Grimes; Eb Hogervorst – Dennis Sprong; Kristi Mansolf – Dennis Grimes; Jim Piva – Dennis Sprong; Dennis Sprong – Dennis Sprong; Paul Stykel – Dennis Sprong; Angus Tobiason – Dennis Sprong; Richard Tomlinson – Dennis Sprong.

Dennis Grimes – 2; Dennis Sprong – 9

RCPG Vice Chair for 2009 – Dennis Sprong. Chad Anderson, Torry Brean, Matt Deskovick, and Dennis Grimes absent.

B. Names Added for New Subcommittee Members (Action)

Jim Piva presented the names of Ramona residents wanting to serve on the Transportation/Trails Subcommittee. He said Dennis Sprong will be the vice chair, and Andrew Simmons will be the secretary. Bob Hailey presented the name of one person on the South Subcommittee who wished to retain membership, so far.

MOTION: TO ADD TO SOUTH SUBCOMMITTEE: GEORGE EASTWOOD. TO ADD TO TRANSPORTATION/TRAILS SUBCOMMITTEE: GEORGE BOGGS, SCOTT BROWN, KAREN CARLSON, FRANK COAKLEY, ARVI DEGENFELDER, JOHN DEGENFELDER, SCOTTY ENSIGN, FRANK GUASTI, BOB HAILEY, CARL HICKMAN, EB HOGERVORST, MICHELLE MORTON, DONNY MYERS, DAWN PERFECT, DAN SCHERER, ANDREW SIMMONS, DENNIS SPRONG, ANGUS TOBIASON, CHERYL WEGNER.

Upon motion made by Jim Piva and seconded by Bob Hailey, the Motion **passed 11-0-0-0-4**, with Chad Anderson, Torry Brean, Matt Deskovick and Dennis Grimes absent.

14. ADJOURNMENT – 10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi Mansolf